

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4419

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MANILA

CINCPAC

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 0387

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SN, ASEAN

SUBJECT: GENERAL MURTOPO DISCUSSES REGIONAL SECURITY IN
SINGAPORE

1. THE STRAITS TIMES ON JANUARY 24 QUOTED GENERAL ALI MURTAPO, POLITICAL ADVISER TO PRESIDENT SUHARTO AND DEPUTY CHIEF OF INDONESIA'S STATE INTELLIGENCE COORDINATING BODY, AS SAYING THAT ASEAN COUNTRIES SHOULD OPERATE FROM STRENGTH IN ADOPTING A POLICY OF ACCOMODATION WITH THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES OF S.E. ASIA. HOWEVER, HE RULED OUT THE NECESSITY FOR AN ASEAN MILITARY PACT.

2. SPEAKING BEFORE A DINNER OF THE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS ASSOCIATION OF S.E. ASIA AT THE RAFFLES HOTEL, GENERAL MURTOPO SAID THAT ASEAN COUNTRIES SHOULD STOP PAYING LIP SERVICE TO THE DOCTRINE OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL RESILIENCE AND GIVE IT SUBSTANCE. WHILE HE SAID THAT THE THREAT TO SECURITY OF SEA NATIONS WOULD REMAIN ONE OF INSURGENCY AND INTERNAL SUBVERSION,
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HE DISMISSED AS "UNREALISTIC" THE VIEW THAT S.E. ASIA WOULD FACE AN OVERT ATTEMPT AT EXPANSIONISM BY THE INDOCHINESE NATIONS.

IN SPITE OF THE THREAT THAT INSURGENTS MIGHT RECEIVE
OUTSIDE AID THROUGH INFILTRATION OF MEN AND MATERIALS, GENERAL
MURTOPO FELT THAT CONFRONTATION WOULD BE THE WRONG POLICY TO
PURSUE VIS-A-VIS THE INDOCHINESE COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, HE ARGUED
THAT ACCOMODATION SHOULD NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THE IMMEDIATE
INCLUSION OF INDOCHINESE NATIONS IN ASEAN.

3. IN A QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION FOLLOWING THE TALKS, GENERAL
MURTOPO SAID THAT SINGAPORE'S ABSTENTION ON THE RECENT U.N.
RESOLUTION DEPLORING INDONESIA'S INTERVENTION IN PORTUGUESE
TIMOR HAD CAUSED "SOME REACTIONS" IN INDONESIA. HE SAID, HOWEVER,
THAT SINGAPORE IS AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY AND HAS "ITS
OWN POLICIES AND STRATEGIES."
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